

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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SEN. JACOBS INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY APPROVED BY SENATE

Bills Make Michigan Safer by Strengthening Homeland Security and Emergency Management

LANSING- State Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D- Huntington Woods) announced today the passage of a legislative package that will establish a new Bureau of Fire Services intended to consolidate fire fighting resources and promote more effective and efficient fire fighting techniques. The new bureau will be within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG).

“This legislation will address issues critical to the safety and well-being of all Michigan residents,” Sen. Jacobs said. “The unanimous bipartisan support that this bill received demonstrates its value and importance.”

The bipartisan legislation was introduced in March. It follows an executive directive issued last November by Governor Granholm ordering that planning begin immediately on a new agency that would be responsible for the fire service related aspects of the state’s homeland security and emergency response efforts. The 25 bill package will establish a Bureau of Fire Services headed by the State Fire Marshall. In addition, the legislative package will also do the following:

- Improve communication and coordination among our state’s fire fighting services
- Recognize the act creating the Arson Strike Force Unit.
- Transfer the Fire Fighting Training Council to the Bureau of Fire Services.
- Require that local units of government apply to the Bureau of Fire Services for permits to process fireworks.
- Provide tort damage immunity to firefighting instructors

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees